

HIGHLIGHT IN THIS REPORT

November 1, 2004 Crop Prospects

Louisiana Crop Prospects

Louisiana's cotton crop is expected to yield 784 pounds per acre, surpassing the August 1 forecast by 147 pounds. All major crop yields except corn are expected to be down in 2004.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 800,000 bales, up 3 percent from last month, but down 22 percent from 2003. An estimated 490,000 acres are expected to be harvested, 20,000 acres more than last year. Yield per acre, at 784 pounds, is up 20 pounds from the previous month, but down 183 pounds from last year's record yield.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 11.4 million net tons, unchanged from last month, but down 11 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 475,000 acres. Net yield is forecast at 24 tons per acre. If realized, this will be the lowest yield since 1993, when the state averaged 22.8 net tons per acres.

Soybean production is expected to total 33.2 million bushels in Louisiana, unchanged from October, but up 32 percent from a year ago. An estimated 1,070,000 acres are expected to be harvested, 330,000 acres more than last year. Yield is forecast at 31 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but down 3 bushels from last year.

Louisiana's **rice** production is forecast at 28.4 million cwt, up 1 percent from last month and up 7 percent from 2003. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 530,000 acres. Yield is expected to average 5,350 pounds per acre, down 520 pounds from last year's record yield.

Louisiana's **corn** production is forecast at 54.7 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but down 18 percent from a year ago. Corn acreage for harvest is forecast at 405,000 acres. Yield per acre, at 135 bushels, is up 1 bushel from 2003.

Sorghum production is estimated at 5.60 million bushels in the state, compared to 14.0 million bushels last year. Sorghum harvest acreage is forecast at 80,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 70 bushels per acre, unchanged from October.

United States Crop Prospects

Upland cotton harvested area, at 13.0 million acres, is unchanged from the October estimate but 10 percent more than last year. Harvest progress continues to lag well behind the 5-year average in most states. American-Pima harvested area, at 253,000 acres, is unchanged from October but up 43 percent from 2003.

Cotton producers in the Delta region made excellent progress harvesting their crop under warm, sunny conditions during early October. Heavy showers returned during mid-October and continued during the rest of the month. In parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, harvest was interrupted for several days as a result of saturated fields. Despite the weather conditions, harvest in the lower Delta remained at the 5-year average or only slightly behind. Boll counts and average boll weights in Mississippi and Louisiana are above the 15-year average. Boll counts in Arkansas are slightly above the 15-year average and boll weights are the highest on record.

American-Pima production is forecast at 720,000 bales, up slightly from the October forecast and up 67 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 1,366 pounds per harvested acre, up 9 pounds from last month. California growers are expecting a yield of 1,425 pounds per harvested acre, up 11 pounds from the October 1 forecast. Harvest was limited early in October but growers made considerable progress by the end of the month. All cotton ginned totaled 8,756,750 running bales prior to November 1, compared with 7,392,800 running bales ginned by the same date last year and 6,696,650 running bales ginned in 2002.

Sugarcane production for sugar and seed in 2004 is forecast at 30.4 million tons, fractionally above the October forecast but 10 percent below 2003. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 961,400 acres for sugar and seed during the 2004

crop year, virtually the same as October and 3 percent less than last year's final harvested area. Yield is forecast at 31.6 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above the previous forecast but 2.4 tons below the 2003 yield.

By the end of October, harvest had begun in the Lake Okeechobee area of Florida. Louisiana's crop was 32 percent harvested on October 31, four percentage points behind the 5-year average for that date. Texas' forecasted yield increased from 36.0 to 37.0 tons per acre, reflecting the ideal harvest conditions that Texas growers have enjoyed.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.15 billion bushels, up 1 percent from October and 28 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 42.6 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from October and 8.7 bushels above last year. Producers in the Corn Belt, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the Carolinas are realizing higher yields than expected last month, while yield prospects decreased as harvest progressed in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Soybean growers expect to harvest 74.0 million acres of soybeans, unchanged from last month but up 2 percent from 2003. The November objective yield pod counts for the combined seven objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio) are up 1 percent from last month and are the second highest on record. Pod counts from the November objective yield survey are the highest on record in Arkansas, Missouri and Ohio.

Rice production is forecast at a record high 228 million cwt, up 1 percent from October and up 14 percent from 2003. This production level surpasses the previous record of 215 million cwt set in 2001. Harvested area, at 3.33 million acres, is unchanged from last month but is 11 percent above 2003. As of November 1, the U.S. all rice yield is forecast at a record high 6,828 pounds per acre. This yield is up 65 pounds from the October forecast and up 183 pounds from the record high yield established in 2003.

As of October 31, rice harvest was complete or nearly complete in all six estimating states. Record high yields are forecast for Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri.

Corn production is forecast at 11.7 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 16 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of November 1, the yield is expected to average 160.2 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from October and 18.0 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous records for both were set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Across the U.S., yields are forecast at record high levels in 19 of the 33 published corn states. With the exception of Wisconsin, yields in the Corn Belt States are forecast at record highs as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season.

Corn for Grain harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 73.3 million acres, unchanged from October but up 3 percent from 2003. The November 1 corn objective yield data indicate the highest ear counts on record for the combined ten objective yield states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). This year's ear count total is 3 percent above the previous high set in 2003.

Sorghum: Production is forecast at 472 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month and up 15 percent from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, the sorghum yield forecast is 71.9 bushels per acre, up 1.5 bushels from October and up 19.2 bushels from last year. Kansas, the largest producing state, expects a yield of 77.0 bushels, 2.0 bushels above last month. The yield forecast for Texas remains unchanged from October, at 65 bushels per acre. Record yields are expected in Illinois, Missouri, and Texas. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 6.56 million acres, unchanged from last month but 16 percent below last year.

As of October 31, harvest in the top 11 producing states was 62 percent complete, compared with 70 percent last year and the 5-year average of 82 percent. Harvest was complete in Arkansas and Louisiana but was behind normal in all of the remaining states. In Kansas, as a result of rainfall and wet field conditions during the middle of October, only 52 percent of the crop was harvested, well behind the 5-year average of 80 percent. Harvest in Texas, at 69 percent, also lagged behind the 5-year average of 84 percent due to cooler temperatures and above normal precipitation. Most of the area remaining to be harvested is in the Plains region of the state.

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA

November 1, 2004

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004
Corn for grain	500	405	134	135	bushels	67,000	54,675
Upland Cotton	510	490	967	784	lbs: bales	1,027	800
Rice	450	530	5,870	5,350	lbs: cwt	26,397	28,355
Sorghum for grain	165	80	85	70	bushels	14,025	5,600
Soybeans	740	1,070	34	31	bushels	25,160	33,170
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	490	475	26.2	24.0	net tons	12,838	11,400
Hay, all ¹	380	360	2.9	2.6	tons	1,102	936
Pecans, all ¹	---	---	---	---	pounds	20,000	8,000

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES

November 1, 2004

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004
Corn for grain	71,139	73,311	142.2	160.2	Bushels	10,113,887	11,740,920
Upland Cotton	11,826	12,970	723	808	lbs: bales	17,822.9	21,825.0
Rice	2,997	3,334	6,645	6,828	lbs: cwt	199,157	227,650
Sorghum for grain	7,798	6,559	52.7	71.9	Bushels	411,237	471,572
Soybeans	72,476	73,990	33.9	42.6	Bushels	2,453,665	3,150,441
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	994.4	961.6	34.0	31.6	net tons	33,857	30,350
Hay, all ¹	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.69	tons	157,123	165,920
Pecans, all ¹	---	---	---	---	pounds	282,100	189,300

¹Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

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